BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

Propoſals by W. G.

Shewing how to raiſe Two Millions of Money per Annum, *or more; and, by the ſame Method, put down High-way-men, Thieves and Robbers, which will eaſe the Country of the great Charge which they lye under, in making good what is Robb'd on the Road, or otherwiſe, from time to time; and likewiſe advance his Majeſty's Cuſtoms many Thouſands* per Annum, *and hinder the Sale of Prohibited Goods by Scotch Pedlers and others, and prevent ſtealing, embeſelling, and melting down of Gold and Silver, and open the Obſtruction which is at preſent on Trade, occaſioned by the Coin.*

Imprimis, THat all Bullion, or melted-down Silver, above the value of ... be bought and ſold at one particular place in each County or Shire, as is Leather at *Leaden-hall*, or Cloth at *Blackwel-hall*; and that it be there Mark'd, Number'd, Regiſter'd, and there Taxed, and that a Certificate be given with each piece of Plate, &c. with its Number, Weight and Mark; which Certificate ſhall paſs from Man to Man with the ſaid Plate, when ſold or any ways diſpoſed of, and ſhall be to all Perſons as a Receipt for the Tax, being paid for the ſame.

It may be objected, That it will be a Diſcouragement to the Goldſmiths & others in their Trades.

That any Perſon, who offers any Plate to ſell, above the value of ... and not having a Certificate thereof, ſhall be ſeiz'd, as Stolen Goods; by which method any Plate that is ſtolen cannot be ſold without the Certificate with it.

That all Perſons do bring in their Plate or Bullion to be Regiſter'd, at or before the ſecond Day of *April* next, and all what is not Regiſter'd after the aforeſaid day of *April* may be ſeiz'd by any Perſon, to whom it is offer'd to ſale; one half to the King, the other half to the Informer: And that it ſhall not be made over to any Perſon by Will, or any other ways transferr'd; and if ſo, ſuch Will or Deed to be void and of none effect, unleſs Regiſter'd.

Anſw. No more than the *Stamp-office* is to the Proceedings in Law, Equity and other Matters in ſeveral ways in dealing.

That the Collectors, for Collecting the ſaid Duty, be knowing and experienced Men in the knowledge of the Silver Coin; and that they do take all Clipt Money that is Sterling Silver; which with Loans already lent, or to be lent or paid into the *Exchequer*, will take up all the Clipt Mony in the Kingdom, before the ſecond Day of *April* next, as aforeſaid: by which method, it will open the Obſtruction which is at preſent on Trade, and by the ſpeedy doing the ſame, it will hinder the Importation of Clipt Mony, brought from Foreign Parts, which may be an unknown Charge to this Nation.

That a Tax of four Shillings in the Pound, when paid in, be laid on all Clipt Mony whatſoever, except what ſhall be paid into his Majeſty's *Exchequer*, on Loans, Taxes or Revenues, which will prevent Clipping and Counterfeiting the Coin.

That all Ale-houſes do renew their Certificates for their Tankards every Year, as they do their Licenſes.

That all Plate or Bullion that is Regiſter'd, ſhall paſs from Man to Man at the full Price or Value with what is over-paid for taxing the ſame: which will prevent the Exportation thereof; and all what is Imported ſhall be taxed at the Cuſtom-houſe where it firſt arrives.

That his Majeſty be at the Charge of Taxing and Regiſtring all Bullion Imported, for one whole Year, to encourage the Importation thereof.

That there be a Draw-back at the Cuſtom-houſe for ſome part of the Duty ſo paid, to make it equivalent with the Price of Gold and Silver in the neighbouring Countries; and all Goods whatever that are wrought with Gold or Silver, which are to be Exported, be allow'd to draw back part of the Duty ſo paid aforeſaid for their Bullion; and that they deliver up their Ticket or Certificate for the ſame Duty, being paid.

That all Money coin'd may paſs for no more in Payments than Bullion uncoined, and if it exceed much in value above the price in our neighbouring Countries, that then there be a Draw-back allowed at the Cuſtom-houſe for the ſame, upon any lawful occaſion, where there is a neceſſity for the Exportation thereof, by which will be known what Gold and Silver is exported from time to time.

That all Perſons that have Clipt Mony, and are not willing to lend the ſame to the Government, may pay it into their Gold-ſmiths hands, and take their Note or Notes; which may paſs from one to another until the new Mony be Coined, and the Clipt Mony paid by the

the said Gold-smiths unto the Commissioners, appointed for Collecting the Duty on Plate, &c. as aforesaid.

That the Price of Gold and Silver may be at a fixed Standard, not exceeding the value of unless there be great occasion thereof, and that it be rais'd by the consent of the Government.

That all Plate, when made up into any Fashion whatever, may be Register'd again, and deliver up their old Ticket, and crossed out of the Book, and a new Ticket or Certificate given, mentioning what it was made into.

That all Persons, that have any Gold or Silver Lace or Fringe to burn, or any Plate to melt down, above the value of shall not melt or burn the same, without delivering first up their Certificate thereof, and taking another, mentioning what it was, and what is to be done with the same, or sell it unburnt or unmelted.

It may be objected, That it will discover the Riches of our Nation. *Answ.* It does not consist in Silver, but in the Manufacturies of this Kingdom, likewise in Gold, Jewels, and other rich Commodities. *Example*, The *Spaniards* have Gold and Silver in abundance, and made known to all Nations; yet they are but poor, because not mix'd, with Trade.

That there be a Catalogue of all what is Enter'd in each County or Shire, sent to each other every Week, by which Method all the Books may be kept alike, so that any Plate that is offered to sale, which is stole, may be examined with the Books of the next adjacent Office, and may be seiz'd, if those Persons have not their Certificate to produce.

That if any Ticket or Certificate be lost by any Person, they shall make it appear by sufficient proof of the Tax being formerly paid, mentioning the Date of their Ticket or Certificate which they lost, and they paying for a new one, and mentioning the old one being lost in their second Certificate.

The price of Gold and Silver since the last Sessions of Parliament until this present sitting has been Stock-job'd and Rais'd to the Rates as followeth; which will fall in course when the Coin is Regulated:

April 1695.	l.	s.	d.	*August* 1695.	l.	s.	d.
Gold Standard per Ounce *Troy*,	04	06	00	Gold Standard per Ounce *Troy*,	05	07	06
Ditto Pistoles,	04	06	06	*Ditto* Pistoles,	05	07	00
Ditto Ducats,	04	08	06	*Ditto* Ducats,	05	16	00
Silver Standard,	00	05	04½	Silver Standard, *English*,	00	06	10
Pieces of eight Piller,	00	05	07	Pieces of Eight,	00	07	01
Ditto Sevil, *Mexico*, &c. mixed,	00	05	06	*Ditto Sevil*, *Mexico*, &c. mixed,	00	07	01
Virgin Silver,	00	05	09	Virgin Silver,	00	07	04

That a Duty of in the Pound, be laid on all Goods, wrought or unwrought, for Sale, above the Value of which are carried from any one City, Town, or Village throughout *England* to any other; and that all such Goods shall be entred in a Custom-house, in every chief City or Town, in ever County before the Goods are sent away, or as they pass through or by the next place where the Register is kept, and a Certificate, and Bills of Parcels sent by the Owner of the Goods, importing, where bought, and to what place they are to go to, as is by Shipping-coquets.

That it shall not be lawful to Sell, or carry away, any Goods that shall be brought to any Inn to unload, or stay there, unless the Party, so bringing the said Goods, shall produce their Certificate referring to, or mentioning in the Bill of Entry and Certificate, each particular Parcel of Goods so brought, from whence, and to what place intended to be carried or conveyed in order to Sale.

That all Goods brought to any place to be Sold, or further conveyed in order for Sale, without producing the Certificate and Bill of Entry where Custom was Paid, shall be seized as Stolen-Custom Goods are, or ought to be, and the same to be kept until redeemed by Law, at the Offenders costs of Suit; by which method any Person that will send their Certificate, or a Duplicate thereof, before their Goods, to the place of Sale, may prevent Robbing, by hindring the Sale thereof.

That all Scotch Pedlars, and other such like, do not presume to sell any Goods above the Value of unless Registred at the first coming into *England*, or at the next adjacent place or places to *Scotland*, or in the place or places in *England*, where they shall buy, or through which they shall carry any Goods as aforesaid.

That all Forreign and other Goods, that are carried from one place to another by Land, do produce their Certificate, at what place the Custom was paid, before they have liberty to dispose of their Goods, and in default thereof be made seizable.

That all manner of Goods which are the Product of *England*, or are here Manufactured, and shall be thought meet to be exported, may have a Draw-back at the Custom-house, for the full Inland Custom by them paid.

That all manner of Goods, the Product of *England*, &c. which are to be Eaten or Drank, may be excepted out of this Act.

That all Houshold, second-hand Goods, or wearing Apparel be exempted from the Duty, but all Goods are to be mentioned in their Bill or Bills of Lading, to prevent being Robb'd, by reason they are to be Seizable, as stolen Goods, unless mentioned in the Bill of Lading as aforesaid.

That there be a Register kept in *Sussex* and *Kent*, and other parts of the Kingdom, where great quantities of Wool is exported to *France* by stealth, and that they do Register the same according to the method aforesaid.

These Duties being Collected with the *Aulnage*, will be but of very little Charge to the Nation.